

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS

1700 K STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4037
TDD (916) 445-1942
(916) 322-6680



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TO: County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators

SUBJECT: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION INFORMATION

Beginning this year, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) will fund a variety of county-level Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs. These funds are of particular interest to alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment and prevention stakeholders. Unlike most MHSA funding, PEI funds may be used to provide services to a wide range of individuals vulnerable to mental illness, not just those with Severe Mental Illness. PEI programs will be shaped by the MHSA PEI Guidelines, which allow counties to develop and implement PEI programs designed to meet its local needs. Statewide, counties will receive approximately \$40-\$60 million dollars for PEI programs.

Many of the characteristics of the PEI "Priority Populations" are associated with trauma exposed, stressed families, school failure and involve substance abuse. Since substance abuse can exacerbate mental illness, PEI funds offer an opportunity for AOD providers to deliver preventative and early onset co-occurring disorders services. As such, the MHSA PEI funding provides a viable opportunity for AOD providers to enhance services.

In an effort to assist the AOD provider community, the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) Co-Occurring Disorders Unit has reviewed and analyzed information on the appropriate usage of the MHSA PEI funding. From this analysis, the Co-Occurring Disorders Unit developed the attached strategies, which may be further developed into potential PEI programs that providers could submit to county planners for funding. With proactive advocacy, your county may choose to implement programs that are based on these recommended strategies. ADP encourages AOD providers to collaborate with local bodies, agencies and officials in refining and promoting these strategies and designing PEI services. The following service providers may be receptive to collaborative program ventures:

- ❖ Child Protective Services
- ❖ School officials
- ❖ Probation and law enforcement officials
- ❖ Juvenile justice agencies
- ❖ Drug courts
- ❖ District Attorney offices



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The final PEI Guidelines are expected in September, so **now** is the time to initiate contacts with potential collaborators, as well as your county planning body. County meeting and public comment timelines and procedures for the PEI proposal process should be available through county mental health officials. In the meantime, because jointly proposed programs or strategies are more likely to gain county support, informal meetings with potential stakeholders is suggested.

The Co-Occurring Disorders Unit will soon disseminate data, research citations and other important information that supports the attached strategies as being evidence-based and/or best practices. In fact, many of the strategies are modeled after National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) criteria. ADP urges AOD providers to use these references, and any other pertinent resources, in communications with county planners and potential program partners. The Co-Occurring Disorders Unit will also provide a planning schedule for developing PEI program proposals. This information will be posted on the Co-Occurring Disorders Unit website at:

http://www.adp.ca.gov/COD_website

This information is the beginning of the Co-Occurring Disorders Unit's effort toward keeping AOD providers aware of developments related to co-occurring disorders. In the future the Co-Occurring Disorders Unit will disseminate periodic updates and information like this via a new e-Newsletter. Enclosed is an invitation from ADP's Co-Occurring Disorders Unit inviting your program to subscribe via email. For further information on PEI, co-occurring disorders and related AOD topics, please contact the Co-occurring Disorders' staff at:

CODInfo@adp.ca.gov

MARJORIE McKISSON
Assistant Deputy Director
Program Services Division – Treatment

Attachment